



Vol. XXX, Issue 13

Waxoc wira | Corn Tasseling Moon

July 15, 2016



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# The Ho-Chunk Nation welcomes a new Gaming Commissioner



Tim Wohlers  
Staff Writer

On the first of the month, Ho-Chunk tribal members welcomed newcomer Heather Cloud to the gaming commission. To make the move official, a swearing-in ceremony was held at the Tribal Office Building in Black River Falls. The commemorative ceremony honoring Ms. Cloud was held on July 1, 2016, at 10 a.m. The purpose of the celebration was to recognize the new commissioner and all that she has done for the tribe heretofore. To honor Commissioner Cloud, guest speakers talked about her and all of her accomplishments. During his address, the commissioner's brother Sheridan Cloud had perhaps the most praise to give his newly-appointed sister.

"There are four C's that I see in my sister – commitment, courage, candor, and competence," Cloud stated. "She had a lot of courage and candor from the beginning."

The role of gaming commissioner proves to be a new challenge for Ms. Cloud, but definitely not the biggest one she has faced. Commissioner Cloud gained the most notoriety in 2013, when she became the first female vice president of the Ho-Chunk Nation. Prior to that, she also served as a district legislator in District 3. Yet her resume stretches far beyond her time as a legislator. Throughout her years serving the nation in a professional role, Ms. Cloud occupied several gaming-related positions.

"I worked in bingo and the IT department," Cloud tells. "My first job in gaming was when I was 18, [performing] floor sales at Ho-Chunk bingo in the Dells."

With her great wealth of experience, Cloud hopes to make the Ho-Chunk Nation proud by embodying the ideal gaming commissioner. To this end, she follows the book to a T. But Cloud does more than that. The new commissioner thinks before she speaks, organizing and formulating her thoughts before expressing them. These qualities prove important for one in such a high office. With these attributes, Cloud shows great potential as gaming commissioner. She looks forward to helping the tribe in her new role.

"It'll be my pleasure serving the Ho-Chunk Nation again," the new commissioner concludes.



Cloud dons the honorary Pendleton blanket gifted to her by the Ho-Chunk Nation.



Heather Cloud gets sworn in as the new Gaming Commissioner.

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Want something special placed in the Hocak Worak? Limited space is available so send your request in early. Submissions will be handled on a first come first serve basis.





# How to build more pride for the Ho-Chunk Nation

Marlon WhiteEagle  
Editor

There’s a lot to be proud of if you’re a Ho-Chunk or a native, for that matter. We were place here on the North American continent by god himself. He made us man; we didn’t evolve from monkeys. We never migrated from another part of the world. Ho-Chunk have always called present day Wisconsin home.

Furthermore, the Ho-Chunk language is considered more archaic to neighboring tribes. We are the “grandparent” to some tribes, if you will. Our legacy and existence goes back ice ages.

Unlike many other native nations, the Ho-Chunk Nation is a non-reservation Indian tribe. That’s something to be proud. Although the US government attempted to remove us to some undesirable location, we always remained and returned to our homeland.

But like always, we can’t be completely happy with our situation. One example of this is a visit to a tribal reservation that had a well-connected community. They had an all or mostly native high school population with sports teams made up of all or mostly natives.

I remember growing up in Ho-Chunk Village in Baraboo. We had a legendary softball team called the Ho-Chunk Husky. Other Ho-Chunk communities gathered

up their youth and formed teams to compete against one another. Each summer we’d have tournaments to crown the champs.

We’d also have team trips to a Milwaukee Brewers game. That was always a fun and memorable time. There’s numerous sport stories from generations ago about all native teams.

Visiting these other tribes’ reservations, I noticed how they had their local business areas. One tribe even had their own radio station. I thought that was most interesting.

Today, the Ho-Chunk Nation is scattered throughout Wisconsin and the United States. We are and have been a federally recognized tribe since early treaties with the US government. But some parts of the Ho-Chunk Nation’s population deal with different community issues than others.

Each community wants their own House of Wellness like facility.

One thing I always thought would be desired by the tribal membership is a more central location to bring about a greater sense of community. I’d like to see the nation develop a town or city of our own. Maybe Nine Eagles, Wisconsin? Referring to the tribal property near Lyndon Station. We ought to develop an all Ho-Chunk town.

Each member could take part and interest in learning how a government works. Imagine a Ho-Chunk mayor, city board, post master, and park and recreation department. A city pool for our kids to swim, little league and pop warner teams with all Ho-Chunks on it.

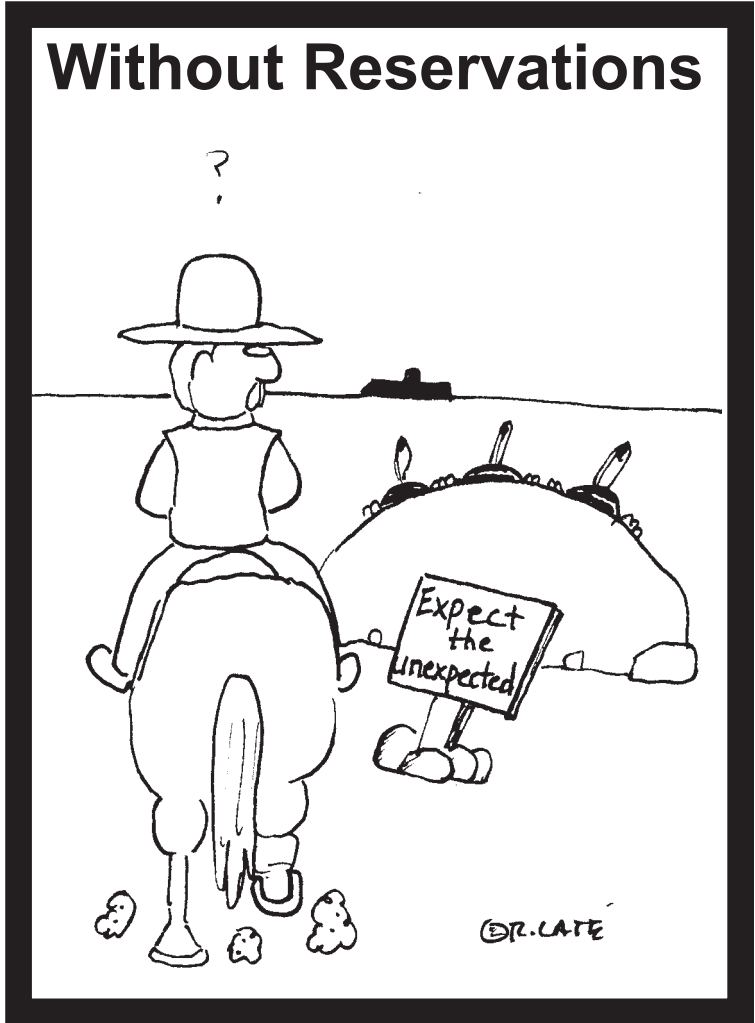
Native always go to parades and complain there wasn’t a good representation of natives in the parade. We could have an all Ho-Chunk High band marching in our parade.

Growing up in Baraboo, Wisconsin, we had this guy who went all out with his Christmas decorations and lights. La Crosse sets up a good Christmas lights with their Rotary lights.

Our local business could be all Ho-Chunk family owned and operated. We have a lot of good cooks, crafts, and trades people in our Ho-Chunk population. We could host an Indian market like Santa Fe, New Mexico. We could host a powwow, a film festival, and native authors in our bookstore.

And don’t forget, we have another gaming site available to develop. That could be a big draw to the tourism to our all Ho-Chunk town.

Nine Eagles is location near the Wisconsin River. We could bring back a Stand Rock type show, like the current one inside Ho-Chunk Gaming-Wisconsin Dells,



near the river. We could have river walk path for biking and running.

Of course our city’s golf course would be designed by Notah Begay III and Tiger Woods in their first collaboration.

The city’s convention center could house our annual General Council meeting.

We could franchise in all our favorite shops and restaurants. The possibilities are endless with our Ho-Chunk Nation capitol city. All our

gaming compact deductions could benefit this city.

Maybe this city concept is too far-fetched? Maybe it makes sense? What do you think? Could this work?

Perhaps the Ho-Chunk Nation could make this a goal. We could establish a 20-30 year goal to complete this project. I think this could bring about new pride for the Ho-Chunk Nation.



## Congratulations

### Kaylee Youngthunder

Wakajaziwi  
(Yellowthunder Woman)  
2016-2017 Karner Blue Butterfly Princess  
Daughter of Mike and Miranda Youngthunder  
and Seth and Tara Hoffman.  
We are all so proud of you!!

## From the desk of Vice President Darren Brinegar:

Greetings Tribal Members, The Tribal Census progress by district includes: District 1 (48%) 579, District 2 (50%) 666, District 3 (45%) 410, District 4 (50%) 215, District 5 (53%) 951. Overall, there is a 50% completion rate of the census, 2821 tribal members have completed the census. The census will be wrapping up at the end of August. The census workers will now be going door-to-door in the 14 county service areas in Wisconsin.

The Ho-Chunk Nation supported the pursuit of the Head Start COLA Grant and the Ho-Chunk Nation Enhanced Domestic Abuse Services for Native American Tribes Request for Proposal on June 7, 2016. The Ho-Chunk Nation was also in support of the Tribal AmeriCorps Program for Program Year 2016-2017 on June 21, 2016.

The HCN Legislature adopted the amendments to the Employee Relations Act, Tribal Aging Unit Advisory Establishment & Organization Act and the Ho-Chunk Nation Occupational Safety and Health Program Act: Exposure Control and Electrical Safety on July 21, 2016.

The Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature placed the Code of Ethics Act with Proposed Amendments and the Ho-Chunk Nation Family Wellness Court Code out for 45 Day Public Comment on June 21, 2016.

The Ho-Chunk Nation District 5 Representative Robert TwoBears has been nominated for the Delegate of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry Tribal Advisory Committee.

The Ho-Chunk Nation passed a resolution on June 21, 2016 which places the Gerke Excavating, Inc. on a Moratorium on contracts with the Ho-Chunk Nation due to violations and intentional discharge of sediments on sacred lands of the Ho-Chunk Nation and Greendeer Homestead in Tomah, Wisconsin.

The Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature accepted the application of Nahtanha Bellanger Whitewing as the Interim Director of the Department of Treasury. A Confirmation Hearing will be set up once all the supporting paperwork is received for Nahtanha Bellanger Whitewing.



**Darren Brinegar**

The Ho-Chunk Nation Rescinds and Restates Resolution 6-9-99G which makes an amendment to the Employee Relations Act which establishes the 4th of July Holiday as Corporal Mitchell Red Cloud Jr. Day and also establishes funding of a Corporal Mitchell Red Cloud Jr. Day Annual Celebration.

Thank you for your time and attention. I hope your summer is going well and you are all enjoying the weather! Have a great summer!

Sincerely,  
HCN Vice President Darren Brinegar



# Barking up the right tree



Schauer waits expectantly for one of the trainees. Much of the training is conducted one on one, up in the trees, to guide the novices until they get a feel for the job

Gabriel Lagarde  
Staff Writer

Aspiring Ho-Chunk urban foresters are, literally, learning the ropes with the advent of a new training regimen offered for the first time June 21-24 in Black River Falls.

Urban forestry involves the proper usage and care of trees, shrubs and other flora in close proximity to people, housing and other aspects of communities.

Five trainees attended a three-hour class and then spent the following days

learning how to climb trees, remove dead or damaged limbs and dispose of them safely.

Mark Gawron, of the Division of Natural Resources, said the program is invaluable to the Ho-Chunk Nation, which he estimated is the most urbanized tribe in the state of Wisconsin.

With the spread of Oak wilt, a destructive fungal disease plaguing the state, removing dead limbs or entire trees is not a matter of landscaping, it's one of safety for the peo-

ple that work, play and live beneath their branches.

"We have 13 housing communities with over-mature oak trees with Oak wilt disease," he said. "That's not a good situation."

Gawron said, to his knowledge, the Ho-Chunk Nation is

the only tribe that includes an urban forester in its staff and the only one with a program of this kind, a measure that is cost-effective and looks to reap benefits long into the future.

"It's going to save the nation tens of thousands of dollars," Gawron said. "There are a lot of trees in our community."

It was with this rationale in mind that Aaron Schauer, a veteran urban forester, was invited to train members of the Ho-Chunk Nation how to climb and work at daunting heights with little more than ropes and handsaws at their disposal.

Under Schauer's tutelage, the trainees traveled to the Indian Mission and practiced a double-rope technique of climbing that utilizes leverage, counter-weights and raw strength to hoist the climber into the highest branches, where they are able to prune branches and remove problematic limbs.

Climbers could remove the whole tree if they had to, a methodical, careful process of breaking the tree down segment by segment, in order to protect neighboring residences.

Greg Blick, an urban for-

ester with the Division of Natural Resources, joined the trainees and took the course as a refresher after studying urban forestry at UW-Stevens Point.

He said much of the program was learning a catalogue of complex knots and pulley systems to overcome the challenges presented by the trees. Then, Blick said, it was a matter of trusting the equipment and getting a handle on the physical aspects of the job.

"We're going to be able to go up into a tree, set a line and then use a set of pulleys to create mechanical advantages," he said. "We had three guys pull a five-ton truck up a hill with just pulleys."

Blick said urban forestry, while demanding, is a well-rewarding job. Professional contractors are many times paid north of \$25 an hour for the work they do.

For Gawron, the program represents a way for the Ho-Chunk Nation to take ownership of their lands and communities.

"The nation takes better care of our resources with our own staff being trained like this," he said. "It creates a safer environment."

TOMAH TAU  
Elders

Thursday July 21<sup>st</sup> 10:00am-4:30pm  
& Friday July 22<sup>nd</sup> 8am-4:30pm

Gather your unwanted items to donate for  
our Garage sale!!

Please bring in Donations for our Garage  
Sale on the 18-20<sup>th</sup>.

Items can be brought to the back of TAU

Please Notify Staff to except items. Thank You!!



Tying knots is serious business in urban forestry. Schauer mentioned a "suislide knot," or one that appears stable, but with enough torque comes suddenly undone. At these heights, you're hoping broken bones are the worst of your problems if that happens.

Attention: The Next Deadline of the Hockak Worak will be July 22th which will be published on July 29th. Please contact Enrollment at ext. 1015 if you have a change of address or would like to be placed on the mailing list.

The Hockak Worak is a periodical published twice monthly by the Ho-Chunk Nation. Editorials and articles appearing in the Hockak Worak are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of the Hockak Worak staff or the Ho-Chunk Nation.

The Hockak Worak encourages the submission of letters to the Editor. All letters must include the signature, address and telephone number of the author. Letters are subject to editing for grammar, length, malicious and libelous content. The Hockak Worak reserves the right to reject any advertising, material, or letters submitted for publication. The submission of articles, poetry, artwork and photos is encouraged. The Editor makes the sole decision of what is published in the Hockak Worak. The Hockak Worak will not assume any responsibility for unsolicited material.

Submissions deadlines for the Hockak Worak are by 4:30 PM. We cannot guarantee the publication of submissions meeting these deadlines if the space is not available. No part of this publication may be produced without express written consent from the Editor.

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STAFF WRITER .....Ken Luchterhand

STAFF WRITER .....Gabriel Lagarde

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# Mitchell Redcloud, Jr. Day Powwow





# Robinson leaves Social Services for a new beginning, and calling, in Vietnam



Ryan Robinson receives a Pendleton blanket from Legislator Greg Blackdeer in appreciation for his service to the Ho-Chunk Nation.

Ken Luchterhand  
Staff Writer

Ryan Robinson and his wife, Marie, soon will be following their hearts. That journey will land him in Vietnam for the next two years to serve as a young pastor and his wife as an elementary teacher. Robinson resigned his job as case management aide, the “arms and legs” of a social worker, with Ho-Chunk Nation Child and Family Services. His last day was Thursday, June 30, having been at his position for more than three years. “It’s been an honor working with you,” he said during a farewell ceremony with co-workers at Social Services on June 29. “I have made a lot of friends while working here. I’m even going to be pen pals with a couple of the kids.” Many of his colleagues spoke of encouragement in his new endeavors and of regret in his leaving.

“I wish you the best because I know that you are doing what is in your heart,” said Roberta Decorah. “God has plans for you. He wants good things for you. You were here for a reason. You learned things that you can use there, using this as a stepping stone. We will send you a lot of prayers because there are a lot of unknowns.” “I almost didn’t accept his resignation,” said Luann Krpata, indicating she wanted him to stay. “As in Ho-Chunk culture, there are no good-byes – just ‘see you later,’” said CFS Director Valerie Blackdeer. Robinson is originally from Oregon and his wife, Marie, is from Rochester, Minnesota. They met when they both attended and graduated from University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire. After graduation, they came to Black River Falls when Marie began as a fifth-grade teacher with the BRF School District and Ryan got his position with the

Ho-Chunk Nation. His new mission as a youth pastor fits perfectly with his background and calling in life. He has a degree in Biblical and Theological Studies from Biola University near Los Angeles, California, and his father is a Baptist pastor in Ashland, Oregon, celebrating 30 years in the ministry. “I was looking online for youth pastor positions when I decided to look at international opportunities. I came across an ideal opening in Vietnam, so I sent in my application,” he said. “I applied on Monday and I heard from them on Wednesday. Then interviewed for the job on Thursday. Things moved really fast.” The organization, Concor dia, a Lutheran-based organization that has connected international schools, was looking for two head pastors and one youth pastor. While talking with the interviewer, the interviewer told Ryan that they had looked up the background on Marie and suggested that she apply for a position. She did, and an interview for her was conducted on Monday. On Tuesday both of them had contracts in their hands. They looked over the contracts for five days, signed them and turned in their commitments for the next two years. So, in just a few days, they’ll be jetting off to work for the Hanoi International Fellowship in Hanoi, Vietnam. “I’ll have more than 60 middle and high school students to work with. A youth group will get together on Friday nights to sing, play games and study the Bible,” he said. “Also I will plan retreats for the students and to organize different activities.” Plans are for Marie to be a

sixth grade teacher at Concor dia International. The school has a student population from a mixture of nationalities, including those from United States, Japan and South Korea. They are children of business workers, embassy workers, and other expatriates in country. “I feel comfortable with the community setup,” Robinson said. “My father was thrilled for us to go.” Ryan and Marie have had experience in travel, having been to Europe twice on short mission trips. They are adventurous and enjoy traveling and seeing other cultures. Marie is excited and anxious to go, having previously looked into the possibility of working in South Korea. With such a long commit-

ment away from home, it will take some time to tie up loose ends before they go. “We will be leaving Wisconsin on July 30, flying to the West coast, then departing for Tokyo on July 31, then on to Vietnam,” he said. The flight between Tokyo and Vietnam is 13 hours, a long trip he’s not looking forward to. Extended family already said their goodbyes last April and his parents are coming to visit them later this month. Marie’s parents are planning a visit in Vietnam at Christmas. Meanwhile, tense waiting and planning will be taking place the rest of the month for the Robinsons. “I’m a little nervous, and a little excited,” he said.



Helping himself to some food, Ryan Robinson takes part in the meal dedicated in his honor as a proper send-off on his new venture.



*Please Join Us for HHDA's Homebuyers Edu. Class*

*Saturday August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016*  
*9am - 4pm*

**Blue Wing Community Building**  
**320 Epinal Rd**  
**Tomah, WI 54660**

*To register please contact the number below*  
*Must register by August 5, 2016*

*Elaina.Cloud2@ho-chunk.com*  
*608-374-1245 ext.238*

## Notice of HHCA Monthly Meeting

### July 28, 2016

**Ho-Chunk Housing & Community Development Agency (HUD Housing)**

HHCA Commissioners Lee Brown Jr., Karena Thundercloud, Colin Carrimon, Francis Decorah, Martin Littlewolf Jr., Leonard Walker, Gerald Cleveland, Robert Funmaker, Cheri Byhre, Mike Goze and John Dall. Will meet on Thursday, July 28, 2016, at 5:00 PM, at the HHCA Office in Tomah (Corner of Monowau Street & Sime Avenue). Agenda items by noon on July 20, 2016 to the Board Secretary at 608-374-1245, extension 222.

### Ho-Chunk Nation School-Community Relations (SCR) Division Important Deadlines and Conferences for 2016-2017

July	Fiscal Year begins July 1 <sup>st</sup>
August	JOM Open Enrollment Begins August 1 <sup>st</sup> BRF, Nekoosa, Port Edwards, Wisconsin Rapids New Teacher Professional Development
September	JOM Student Count JOM Education Plans, Expenditure Lists, Election of Officers
October	NIEA Convention, October 5-8, 2016, Reno, NV
December	Winter Summit, Madison or Tomah JOM Grant Review
March	JOM Grant Submission
April	NJOMA Conference 2017, April 24-26, Albuquerque, NM BRF New Teacher Professional Development
May	WIEA Conference in Minocqua, WI JOM Needs Assessments Deadline for PreK-12 Computer Purchase Requests is May 15 <sup>th</sup>
June	PreK-13 Grant Deadline is June 15 <sup>th</sup> Fiscal Year Ends June 30 <sup>th</sup>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at [SCR@ho-chunk.com](mailto:SCR@ho-chunk.com).  
PreK-12 Information: [www.ho-chunknation.com/prek-12](http://www.ho-chunknation.com/prek-12)  
JOM Information: [www.ho-chunknation.com/education/school-community-relations/johnson-omalley](http://www.ho-chunknation.com/education/school-community-relations/johnson-omalley)

**SCR Staff Members:**  
**Bethany Redbird:** School Community Relations Director  
**Melissa Porter:** School Community Relations Specialist  
**Chavo Stumblingbear:** School Community Relations Specialist  
**Jessica McMillan:** School Community Relations Specialist  
**Melody Gesicki:** School Community Relations Specialist  
**Angela Marek:** PreK-12 Grant Specialist  
**Hannah Myers:** PreK-12 Grant Specialist  
**Darcy Olson:** PreK-12 Grant Specialist



Ho-Chunk Nation Education Department School Community Relations Division  
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# Hoocak Ee Cooni fights to keep the language alive

Tim Wohlers  
Staff Writer

To have a language is to have a culture. And sadly, to lose that language is to lose the culture. For this precise reason, Daycare Administrator Mary Thundercloud-Eary and her staff at the Hoocak Ee Cooni learning center in Wisconsin Dells fight to preserve the Ho-Chunk language within the tribe. They realize the importance of language within a culture, and its vast significance in retaining that culture. Based on this realization, they devote every

second of the day to teaching Ho-Chunk youth their native language.

“We’re trying to create language nests for families as a way to revitalize and save the language,” Thundercloud-Eary explains. “We’re really working to have more families speak the language so it’s not something we lose.”

The daycare welcomes enrolled Ho-Chunk children who are 4 months to 4 years old. But the younger, the better. As they say, the early bird gets the worm. Kids tend to soak up everything. With

that being the case, the learning center targets infants and young children.

“What we’re trying to do is create these baby Ho-Chunk speakers,” Thundercloud-Eary admits. “It’s age-appropriate and follows all the state standards.”

Research into undeveloped brains have taught us a few things. For one, a child’s first language grows the strongest. For another, young minds are very suggestible. Children learn quickly, and listen to everything we say. So when it comes to learning a language, immersion proves to be the best teaching method.

“We’re really trying to speak only Ho-Chunk to the babies,” Thundercloud-Eary states. “Once they come in, the babies are immersed in Ho-Chunk as soon as they enter. It’s all in Ho-Chunk. The goal is to be a true immersion program.”

By far, language immersion constitutes the largest part of the agenda at the learning center. However, many fun and engaging activities present themselves for the children. For instance, reading comprises a substantial



Children participate in an activity involving plants.



A language apprentice teaches Ho-Chunk to the kids.

portion of the day. Some books are written in English, and then translated into Ho-Chunk. Others have already been translated for the kids.

“You teach the language like you would any other language,” Thundercloud-Eary informs. “So we read stories.”

Everything the staff does at the daycare reinforces language learning. The apprentices speak in Ho-Chunk. Books are read in Ho-Chunk. And soon, the kids will think

in Ho-Chunk. The entire focus lies on ingraining the Ho-Chunk language into the minds of children.

“That’s the goal of the program – to speak only in Ho-Chunk all day long to the kids,” Thundercloud-Eary reveals. “The goal has always been to save the language. Hopefully, we’ll develop a whole school system where the children only speak Ho-Chunk.”



Young children practice arts and crafts at the daycare.



The learning center provides a safe and clean environment for youth.



Two children embrace the art of role-playing.

# Ho-Chunk Nation receives grant for Digital Storytelling Pilot Project

Submitted by Lynette LeGarde, HCN Legislature Chief Communication Officer

The Ho-Chunk Nation received grant in the amount of \$14,630.00 for a Digital Storytelling Pilot Project from the First Nations Development Institute of Longmont, Colorado. The Ho-Chunk Nation Museum Director met with Ho-Chunk Nation Legislators and representatives from the Tomah Youth Services Program on June 21, 2016 in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin for a photo.

The plans for the project will include a collaboration between the Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Heritage Preservation and Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Social Services Tomah Youth Services Division. This will be a 10 week program that will include a trip to the Milwaukee Public Museum, photography training, storytelling training

and a final online project.

Ho-Chunk Nation Vice President Darren Brinegar stated, “The Ho-Chunk Nation is grateful to receive this grant. We look forward to the implementation of this program and involving the Ho-Chunk youth. We are excited to have them involved and learning about the oral tradition of storytellers.”

The Ho-Chunk Nation Museum Director Josephine Lee stated, “I am excited to see the direction that the students will take to explore what it means to them to be Ho-Chunk for this project. I am also looking forward to this project becoming something for the broader Ho-Chunk community. I hope that it inspires everyone to think about how our culture shapes who we are. The project, once complete, will be available online for everyone to view.” The project will begin on July 12, 2016.



L to R – Front Row: Lanette Walker, Josephine Lee, Rep. Kathy LoneTree-Whiterabbit, Rep. Matt Mullens, Rep. Henning Garvin, Back Row: Linda Hanson, Margot Carrimon, Rep. Andrea Estebo



# Youth services helps participants reconnect at “Littles” event

Tim Wohlers  
Staff Writer

The Ho-Chunk Nation's Youth Services recently held its fourth “Littles” event of the year. The function took place on Wednesday June 29, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Trempealeau's Perrot State Park. It focused on reconnecting Littles – children in grades K-5 who are enrolled in both school and Youth Services – with their past, and with their relatives from around the state. According to Henry Greengrass, the head of Youth Services in La Crosse, the event produced a good turnout with 124 youth in attendance. The gathering concluded the Littles events of the fiscal year, following three earlier events held in Black River Falls, Milwaukee, and Wittenberg. Thus, Littles 2016 at Perrot State Park proved to be the culmination of much hard work and dedication put in by Youth Services throughout the year.

To accommodate the respectably large turnout, Youth Services leaders divided the participants into four separate groups and then led them through four different stations individually. These four stations consisted of a nature walk with a representative of the DNR, language preservation, a narration of the history on effigy mounds, and a privileged walk-through of the nature center's Native American exhibit with experts from the University of Wisconsin. At every station, the instructors dedicated a whole hour of teaching the subject matter to each group. Such structuring allowed the kids to develop a thorough understanding of all topics, which proved important to those involved. Center Director Henry Greengrass took that responsibility upon himself and his staff.

“The way I see it, these are our kids,” Greengrass said. “This is the stuff that I teach my kids because that's the stuff I learned as a kid. I think all Ho-Chunk members should know this.”

Fortunately, the director had a great staff to aid in the instruction. The nature walk was led by John Carrier, the Park Naturalist at Perrot State Park. Guiding the youth along the Black Walnut Nature Trail, Carrier showed everyone some of the oldest

dwelling in North America. An expert in his field, the naturalist revealed how natural historians calculate the age of such dwellings. His explanation impressed the listeners with scientific terms such as “carbon dating.” But he also described how the mere existence of certain items can help.

“If you find this particular tool, you know it's from this time,” stated Carrier.

Carbon dating places the cave dwellings in Perrot State Park at approximately 10,000-13,000 years old. This evidence proves that humans were present here in Wisconsin early on, and endured through very difficult times. Getting food proved much harder during that era. There was no Walmart. No groceries or supermarkets existed. Therefore, our ancestors needed to hunt for their food. Those feats deeply impress the naturalist.

So when asked about the importance of learning this material, Carrier humbly responded, “Part of it has to do with seeing heritage. There's a little bit of pride in saying the people I descended from survived by eating mammoths.” He stressed that “the first people here were some tough, tough people. I'd be proud of that if they were my people.”

Language was taught by Rosalie Brownthunder, a public-school teacher at Forest Street Elementary in Black River Falls and former principal of a K-12 school in Minnesota. This also marks Brownthunder's tenth year educating youth as part of Youth Services in Black River. Given her extensive experience coaching children, Brownthunder knows about responsibility. During the summer, she is responsible for around 150 students in Black River Falls. Even with all of her classroom instruction, though, the educator believes that learning should not be restricted to textbooks. She strongly emphasizes the importance of educating our next generation in Ho-Chunk language, culture, and history – all subjects in which she holds certification.

“It's important because it's one of the requirements to be noted as a Nation,” explained Brownthunder.

The history of the effigy mounds was narrated by Josie Lee, Museum Director and Interim Language Division Manager for the Ho-Chunk Nation. Lee understands the great significance of the park's effigy mounds.

“The mounds are important because this is the only place in the world that you're going to find effigy mounds,” Lee proclaimed. “They are a tie to us being here before Europeans. They are our claim to this place.”

The nature center's Native American exhibit was presented by none other than the curator of the exhibit herself, UW-Madison's Senior Curator of Anthropology Danielle Benden. That's right. With the help of UW students, Benden curated the exhibit which educates the park's guests on the current and past natural resources in the area. Along with displaying historical information, the exhibit contains contemporary information about Native American traditions as well. One area specifically focuses on the tribes that currently live in Wisconsin. Covering this spectrum, the display bridges the past and present.

“From an archaeological standpoint, we know that people have been here for at least 12,000 years,” reported Benden. “This is traditional Ho-Chunk territory.”

Benden's husband, Honorary Fellow and former Associate Director of Mississippi Valley's Archaeology Center Ernie Boszhardt, aided with the presentation. With one of them specializing in anthropology, and the other in archaeology, the two make a dynamic duo of educators. Boszhardt even demonstrated a Native American technique for toolmaking, called flint-knapping. However, the archaeologist stressed the magnitude of the actual exhibit's revelations. As he explains, the display brings the past to life.

“This is [the Native Americans'] long-term past. Last week's news is history, and it's hard to learn it all,” Boszhardt confessed. “But this exhibit allows us to go back 13,000 years and actually touch [history]. There's a sensation that goes with that that's pretty indescribable. This goes back 13,000 years



**Museum Director Josie Lee (left) demonstrates a primitive hunting technique and the weapon which was used.**



**Director of Youth Services Henry Greengrass (right) performs a headcount following one of the day's nature walks.**

and shows us that the Ho-Chunk are still here.”

Youth Services representatives, such as Homeschool Coordinator Elizabeth Digby-Britten, consider the event a success. Not only does Digby-Britten work in Youth Services; she is the mother of a Little herself. Having grown up in Trempealeau, Digby-Britten came to the park as a youth. Back then, the focus of a visit lay on nature. Now, it lies on heritage preservation.

“They've done a good job of getting accurate information,” Digby-Britten admitted. “As Native people, we need to know our history because we have to pass that information on.”

Another Youth Services worker, Wittenberg's Homeschool Coordinator Macy Goodbear, values a different aspect of the Littles event. She sees the day as an opportunity for children to reconnect with friends they've met at other Youth

Services events. Goodbear also believes the gathering allows the older generation to connect with the younger generation by telling stories. As she points out, it allows the grown-ups to share their experiences. This kind of interaction encourages bonding among all those involved.

According to Goodbear, the event is about “bringing all the youth together, and getting to see relatives in all the different areas. [Littles] teaches them about themselves and their relatives, and where they came from.”

At Littles 2016, such reconnection proved to be exactly what happened. Parents met other parents. Littles met other Littles. And Youth Services employees met more of their own kind. At the end of the day, the excitement did not end. For everyone anticipates the next Littles event and what it will have in store.



**Honorary Fellow Ernie Boszhardt demos a practice known as flint-knapping.**



**Park Naturalist John Carrier (left) describes some of the flora found at Perrot State Park.**



**Educator Rosalie Brownthunder teaches youth the Ho-Chunk language.**



# Youth at daycare center to learn the basics of hands-on gardening

Ken Luchterhand  
Staff Writer

Ah. Feel the power of the vegetable.

Soon, little ones will not only be feeling that power but also knowing where it comes from.

The Children’s Learning Village Montessori Academy in Black River Falls has just been approved for a grant to create a garden for both educational and nutritional purposes.

Children’s Learning Village Director Lee Ann Mortenson was notified on June 27 that the daycare center was awarded an Early Care and Education Garden Micro Grant, provided by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families Race to the Top.

“Our overall goal is to work with children in an outdoor environment,” Mortenson said. “It’s another way and opportunity to learn.”

Mortenson said she applied for the \$1,000 grant in early June.

The Children’s Learning Village Montessori Academy met all the criteria of the grant, which was to be located in Wisconsin, have regulated child care programs, that the center be a YoungStar participant, and to be prepared to use gardens as a means of engaging children in health and learning goals.

They’ve been working on the playground over the last year, placing the sod and hills, using a grant that was available for the project. In the process, they didn’t sod a section with the intentions of creating a garden within the fenced-in playground area.

They plan to build raised garden beds in that area, plus have container gardens throughout the yard and building.

“I would try to get the children involved as much as possible. They would participate in planting, watering, weeding and harvesting,” she said. “Also, classroom education is part of the gardening program, so part of the grant will include the purchase of books and educational materials.”

They will learn about gardening, especially during the growing season.

“They can see the vegetables growing and then eventually eat them,” she said. “Then they’ll have an understanding where their food comes from and are more eager to eat it.”

It’s hands-on learning, she said. Not only will the children learn about gardening, but also they will take that knowledge home with them and it will encourage their families to participate in gardening.

“We don’t need a fence around the garden area. We teach them what the expectations outside are,” Mortenson said. “We will talk about it before we go outside.”

The garden is for the older children, two to six years old, so that they can understand the gardening process.

“They’ll see the success and get experience they can absorb,” she said.

In the 6-week to 2-year-old area, they will just utilize container gardening and they will not have access to the outside garden.

“We like to challenge them with new experiences,” she said. “For some children, this may be the first time to see a garden.”

Also, the teachers will talk about having a healthy diet, then eat some fruits and vegetables, which ties in with the curriculum.

“This is so us,” Mortenson said. “We met all the criteria. This is a great opportunity. Seeing the plant first as a seed and then growing into a plant. A lot of children don’t know that.”

The garden will created and begin in the coming weeks, she said.



## FREE Clean Sweep

### Acceptable Products

*Oil Based Paints and Paint Related Material*  
*Latex Paints and Paint Related Material*  
*Non-Flammable and Flammable Solvents*  
*Pesticides and Herbicides*  
*PCB Containing Products*  
*Gasoline & 2 Cycle OIL, Fuel Oil, Diesel Fuel*  
*Batteries (Alkaline, Ni-Cad, Lithium, Mercury, Car & Leaded)*  
*Fluorescent Lamps & Ballasts( All Types)*  
*Corrosive Material (Acidic & Alkaline)*  
*Ethylene Glycol (Antifreeze) Cleaners*  
*Mercury (Elemental & Compounds)*  
*Dioxin Related Material (Penta & Silvex)*  
*Aerosols (All Types)*  
*Oxidizers & Organic Peroxides (Hardening Agents, Hydrogen Peroxides, etc...)*  
*Oils*

### Unacceptable

*Explosives (Includes Ammunition*  
*Shock Sensitive Materials (Picric Acid, Nitrocellulose)*  
*Biological/Medical Materials (Red Bag Wastes)*  
*Pressurized Cylinders*  
*Radioactive Materials*  
*Smoke Alarms*

The Ho-Chunk Nation Clean Sweep Program is sponsored by the Office of Environmental Health and the Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency (HHCA).

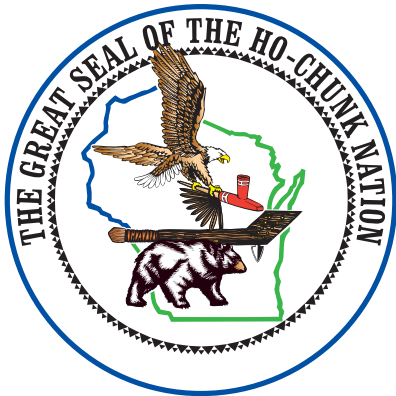
### Clean Sweep Dates & Times

Indian Mission	July 26th	4PM–7 PM	Tribal Aging Unit Parking Lot
Cex' Ha Ci	July 28th	2PM –4PM	Community Center Parking Lot
Blue Wing	July 28th	5:30PM-7:30PM	Community Center Parking Lot
Indian Heights	Aug 2nd	2PM –4:30PM	Community Center Parking Lot
Ho-Chunk Village	Aug 2nd	5:15PM–7:15PM	Wellness Center Parking Lot

### Program Information

The Clean Sweep Program is intended for **household hazardous waste only**. The Contractor will not accept business, agricultural, or industrial waste. Any household that plans on bringing a large quantity of material to the Clean Sweep should contact either Kevin Gunderson or Jeff Hendricks using the information below prior to the date of the collection in your area.

**Ho-Chunk Office of Environmental Health**  
**Kevin Gunderson**  
**PO Box 636**  
**W9850 Airport Rd.**  
**Black River Falls, WI 54615**  
**Ho-Chunk Housing & Community Development Agency**  
**Jeff Hendricks**  
**PO Box 730**  
**Tomah, WI 54660**  
**800-236-2260**





# Playing their cards right in the game of life



Ho-Chunk children spent time at the tables during “breakout sessions,” or time spent with tutors that walked the young ones through complex issues like credit card payments, insurance and other hard lessons of life.

Gabriel Lagarde  
Staff Writer

Ho-Chunk kids spent a day at the crossroads of childhood and adulthood during the annual Financial Frenzy vs. Game of Life event held at Ho-Chunk Gaming in Nekoosa, June 22. Children of all ages participated in an exercise of adult responsibilities. Organizers gave each child a check and a ledger while they navigated a series of tables and stands representing jobs, banks, colleges, healthcare, the military and other functions of life. Tena Quackenbush, program manager at Family Services Program, said the day-long event is invaluable for Ho-Chunk children to make the right decisions when they go out into the world. “This game is so important for our youth,” she said, “to guide them through the years before they get that money.” The players were challenged to allocate their funds wisely throughout the course. While the players made their own choices and pursued what in-

terested them, they also had to take into account practicalities like spouses and family sizes and uncertainties such as injuries or auto repair. Robert Miles, an upcoming freshman from at Tomah High School, and Avery Lockman, an upcoming eighth-grader at Alexander Middle School in Nekoosa, both played the game and described it as fun. Miles, who dreams of becoming a professional basketball player like Michael Jordan, said he was impressed most by the lessons in tribal history provided by older members of the Ho-Chunk nation. “Our history, our language,” he said. “(They taught us) what to do, what not to do.” A new development this year is the introduction of five “breakout sessions” or sit-downs with the students to discuss important issues they would face later in life. The kids spent time with the seven clan grandmothers to discuss Ho-Chunk values and the importance of culture. The other

sessions concerned concepts including financial aid, credit scores, trust funds and insurance, Quackenbush said. Lockman said he hopes to attend college and become a cast-iron welder at some point during his life. He said he thought his “experiences” with investing in the Game of Life were some of the most challenging and most interesting of the course. “You have to invest your money in things you wouldn’t think you’d invest in,” he said, noting secondary education as an example of a surprising investment. Both boys said they wanted to serve in the military as well, a choice they said was inspired

by a number of relatives who had also served in the Miles and Lockman families. Teenagers have a number of hurdles to overcome when they take the leap from childhood to adulthood, but Ho-Chunk kids have the added pressure of trust fund money, Quackenbush said. Inexperience and ignorance can lead kids to make foolish decisions when thousands of dollars are suddenly at their disposal. Added to that, Ho-Chunk youth in their late teens and early twenties are active targets of many financial institutions and predators hounding their money. “Does it complicate life? Absolutely!” Quackenbush said. “Unless the children are being taught from early on until they get that trust fund money, it can actually be detrimental in so many ways.” Lessons in topics like money management, insurance and taxes, while a challenge for adults to fully grasp, may be one of the few means parents have to prepare their children to face such an intimidating responsibility. “It is not easy, trying to get difficult points across to the youth in a simple way,” Quackenbush said. Quackenbush said the issue of imparting these important lessons was one of the focuses during the many planning meetings between organizers leading up to the event.



A bank official points out a graphic to a young Ho-Chunk boy, giving a patient, one on one explanation of how his could use his “money” and what would be the most prudent use of it at financial institutions.



Some of the youngest kids had helpers. Here, the adults explain the parameters of the game and the significance of the card’s messages in the real world.



The kids broke took a break for lunch provided by the organizers. They were treated to goodies like turkey, ham and roast beef sandwiches, chicken noodle soup and chocolate chip cookies!



## Kijire Nagu Recruitment for Board of Directors

The mission of the Kijire Nagu Healing Village is to be organized and operated exclusively for the benefit and advancement of individuals in need of sobriety, wellness, and healing, with a special emphasis on serving Ho-Chunk communities.

The Kijire Nagu Healing Village is seeking qualified candidates for its Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will act as a fiduciary to the Kijire Nagu, and manage the general affairs of the Kijire Nagu Healing Village. Board of Directors are required to meet bi-monthly, with additional Special Meetings to be called by the Board Chair, at any time, to conduct any business necessary for the operation of the Kijire Nagu Healing Village. Board of Directors are further expected to serve a three (3) year term of office.

Qualified candidates will have experience and expertise in one (1) or more of the following area(s):

1. Law Enforcement;
2. Business/Financial Administration;
3. Social Services;
4. Medical Services;
5. Behavioral Health Services;
6. Ho-Chunk Cultural and Spiritual matters;
7. Personal experience in Recovery and Addiction;
8. Fundraising and/or grant writing for non-profit organizations.

Interested persons will submit a letter of interest that details their background and qualifications for one (1) of the eight (8) listed categories above, as well as a statement that explains their desire to help people heal and reasons for joining the Kijire Nagu Healing Village Board of Directors.

All letters of interest should be submitted by May 2, 2016, and sent to:

The Kijire Nagu Workgroup  
In care of the of Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature  
P.O. Box 667  
W9814 Airport Road  
Black River Falls, WI 54615  
Any questions can be directed to:  
Terry Greendeer  
(715) 284-9343  
[terry.greendeer@ho-chunk.com](mailto:terry.greendeer@ho-chunk.com)





# Pushing the fundamentals

## Youth basketball camp delivers on its promise of fun

Gabriel Lagarde  
Staff Writer

UW-Stevens Point played host to the 2016 Ho-Chunk Nation Basketball Camp for boys and girls from June 28 to July 1.

Attendance has skyrocketed since last year, camp administrator Tena Quackenbush said. The number of youth enrolled in the event jumped from roughly 20 kids in 2015 to 69 this year.

“I was at the camp last year at Wittenberg. Here, there are a lot more people, which makes it more fun” Jolece Pecore, a freshman at Stevens Point Area High School, said, referencing the sizable jump in numbers. “They’re good coaches, which helps.”

Christopher Wells, one of the camp instructors, spoke warmly of his experience working with Ho-Chunk and other youths of Native American descent.

“We had quite an experience. They welcomed us with open arms. They’ve been nothing but friendly,” he said. “You couldn’t ask for a better group of kids.”

DeShawn Robinson, a senior strong forward for Concordia University during the 2015-16 season and one of the camp coaches, said this is his and Wells’s second year mentoring the kids.

He said he and the other coaches continually emphasized fundamentals, skills that form the bedrock of any basketball program, but he said he also pushes a strong sense of discipline and responsibility in his pupils they can take beyond the court.

“For us, it’s giving back to the kids,” Robinson said. “At certain points in our life, we were able to receive that teaching. We just hope these guys can take this back to their school, back to their friends and back to what they themselves do at home.”

Joe WhiteEagle, a freshman at Baraboo High School, said the coaches held the kids to a high standard of conduct during the camp.



Part of the Basketball Camp are (first row) Averie Tom, Eayle Mahkimetas, Peter Albert, Coach Derrick Hankins, Coach Debbie Fultan, Coach Khalif Elamin, Head Coach DeShain Robinson, Coach Andrew Fratzke, Coach Chris Wells, Jalend Cobb, Peyton Pettibone, Wesley Wolfe, (second row) Kaylie Lincoln, Giselle Decorah, Wylee Dodge, Gerald Redbird, Jordan Small, Andrew Rave Jr., Evan Voss, Precious Funmaker, Gage Dick, Jaden Gallagher, Darius Littlewolf, Bruce Redbird, Bertina Dodge, (third row) Diana Shegonee, Aubrianna Cadotte, Joren Cobb, Everett Valliere, Noah Decorah Jr., Hayden Eades, John Cornelius, Alena Cornelius, Nathan Webster, Roderick Pecore, Curtis Mallory, Caleb Lemieux, Mason WhiteEagle, Cadence Cadotte, (fourth row) Victor Heintz, Seneca Funmaker, Trinity DeCora, Jazmyn Minniecheske, Shalina Whitewing, Jalen Funmaker, Calvin Mitch, Katie Welch, Kalista Cadotte, Mariah Pettibone, Abigail Chamberlain, Jackson Mallory, (fifth row) Silus Greendeer, Erik Lincoln, Gavin WhiteEagle, Cornell Funmaker, Kira Funmaker, Zebastian Brown, Joe WhiteEagle, Travis Brown, Jada Balber, JaVaughn Hannah, Donald Webster, Joseph Recom, Waylon Welch, Kayla Pecore, Joleece, Liv Curley, Lauralee Pettibone, Gwen Lincoln, and Hannah Tutor.

“They said we need to be quiet, to have eyes on them, that it was disrespectful to talk over them,” he said.

The camp offered mentorship to students ages 10-17 and the wide spectrum of skill level, physical development and mental maturity meant the camp couldn’t be a simple, slam-dunk affair for the coaches.

Wells described the hardest challenge of the camp as one to create an environment that pushed each grade and age group to improve themselves and their basketball skills without boxing children in unrealistic expectations.

Olivia Curley, a freshman and basketball player at Wittenberg-Biramwood High School, said the camp pro-

vided an opportunity for her to sharpen her skills with kids who may be strangers at first, but share the same culture and upbringing as her.

“You can see different Ho-Chunk people from other areas and see how they play basketball,” she said. “Then you can find a different style if you like theirs better than yours. It’s just fun to find people like you.”

Curley said she liked the loose, free-style kind of basketball she found at the camp versus the more structured, play-oriented style she practices with her high school team back home.

Robinson said he and Wells hope to coach the Ho-Chunk kids “as long as they’ll have us.”







# The Game of Life meet the financial frenzy

Submitted by  
Melanie McDonald

On Wednesday June 22, 2016 Ho-Chunk Gaming Nekoosa hosted the 2nd annual Game of Life. This event was open to youth grades 5th- 12th. There was a total of 52 participates in this year’s event. The Game of Life is designed to give the youth an opportunity to learn what different choices they will face after receiving their trust fund monies. The game took them through the different paths they can take after graduating high school. These included work, military, and education. The goal of the game was to inform and have a better understanding of making life choices, the outcomes of those choices, along with the consequences. There were five breakout sessions as well for the youth to attend. Those sessions consisted of financial aid and planning, credit scores, insurance, culture and trust fund impact.

Each participant was given a folder to start out with that contained a check they had to deposit at the bank and then received a checkbook. Following that, participants had to make their first choice to one of the following: higher education, military, get a job or attempt to live off their trust fund. After that they started making choices on where they wanted to go and where the random Game of Life cards told them. There were 27 tables set up that each youth needed to visit. Some of those tables included court, taxes, child care expense, vehicle purchase, life skills, medical insurance and investments. Random cards were also handed out during the game, each with a different scenario. At the end of the allotted time period the youth had to hand in their checkbooks and they received a ticket for a door prize.

This event had a great turn out and the youth had a wonderful time. Ho-Chunk Gaming Nekoosa is looking forward to hosting this life learning event again next year.

ATTENTION H.A.G.A. GOLFERS

The Ho-Chunk Area Golf Association will be having a meeting July 24th, 2016 following Amory Decorah Memorial Tournament. All Board Members are encouraged to attend. All HAGA membership attendance is welcome. Everyone’s input will be greatly appreciated.

# H.A.G.A. GOLF TOURNAMENT

Date: Sunday, July 31, 2016



@ Coldwater Canyon Golf Course  
2501 Chula Vista Pkwy  
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965



Luck of the Draw for teams  
(4 PERSON teams)  
Encouraging ALL YOUTH golfers  
Awards for all!

REGISTRATION:	7:30 a.m. — 8:30 a.m.
MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION:	\$25
SHOTGUN:	9 a.m.
Entry Fee:	\$70 with membership \$95 with new membership card
*MUST SHOW PROOF OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP	
Skins:	\$5

Contact person: Kerry Funmaker  
Phone: 800-746-2486 ext. 2044  
Email: kmfunmaker@gmail.com





# Students get down and dirty at Heavy Equipment School



Students at the Heavy Equipment School simulate operating a piece of heavy machinery.

Tim Wohlers  
Staff Writer

The North Country Heavy Equipment School, owned by Jake King, now finds itself in the 18th full year of operation. The school opened its doors in 1998 in Escanaba, MI, where one can still find it today. The institution teaches students how to operate heavy machinery safely. These skills prove highly valuable in the world of manual labor. And the owner agrees.

“If a guy wants to go out and get his hands dirty, he’s going to make damn good money,” King asserts. “But you don’t learn how to use equipment by reading a book. You get it by being hands-on.”

Ho-Chunk Nation’s Department of Labor first heard

about the Heavy Equipment School when it was brought to attention by tribal member Mitch Redcloud. Upon learning about the institution, he informed the labor department of the opportunity. After spreading the word, Redcloud later earned his certificate for completing the course in April. Four more Ho-Chunk tribal members – Vilas WhiteEagle, Danny Youngthunder, Robin McKee, and Warrington Greengrass – will be attending the school later this year. They represent the first full class of tribal members in attendance at the facility.

Upon request by the state of Michigan, Heavy Equipment School was established in the late 90s by Gene Draz.

seasoned veteran possesses more than 40 years of experience operating such heavy equipment. As the owner of Draz Excavating, he accumulated a great wealth of knowledge in the field and in the office. Having imparted this knowledge on many an eager mind, Draz ultimately sold the business last year. Now, the company finds itself under the safe ownership of lifer Jake King. After getting hired by a company in the field directly out of high school, King has spent his entire life working with heavy equipment.

“I’ve been in the field since 2002, running equipment,” King divulges. “I got my diploma on a Friday. And the very next Monday, I was at work.”

King considers himself fortunate for choosing the correct career path. For he believes that, with a college degree, he would only be making equal or lesser pay than he makes now. Because of that belief, King favors the empowerment of others through experiential learning over teaching from a textbook. He feels that one’s potential relates more closely to his or her level of motivation, instead of his or her level of education. In other words, where there’s a will, there’s a way.

“As a whole, it gives people an alternative route from a four-year school,” King explains. “For those who aren’t attending a university, Heavy Equipment School gives them a chance of getting into a field where they never thought they had a chance.”

To provide the best opportunity, the school utilizes field instruction as its main teaching method. The practice gives students real-world experience using common pieces of heavy equipment



Backhoes and other heavy machinery are used in teaching at the Heavy Equipment School.

– like excavators, backhoes, bulldozers, front-end loaders, graders, dump trucks, and motorized compactors. In fact, about 95 percent of the teaching takes place in the field. This structure allows the students to put theory into practice before assuming great liability with an employer. King finds that important.

“Nobody wants to put you in their quarter-of-a-million-dollar piece of equipment without knowing what you’re doing,” King points out. “A guy can do a lot of damage really quickly if he doesn’t

know what he’s doing.”

With that understanding, the instructors at North Country Heavy Equipment School do what they do best. They teach real-life skills in real-life scenarios. And the school’s attendance proves that the institution goes about business in the right way. According to King, Wisconsin agencies often send their clients to his school in Michigan before sending them to a school in-state. That fact alone speaks to the impressive reputation built by King and his Heavy Equipment School.



Hands-on learning comprises the vast majority of class time at Heavy Equipment School.



the blue wing  
COMPANY

The Blue Wing Company is Ho-Chunk owned and proud to work with Native American Companies. Please contact us for special General Council pricing.

- Made in America
- Best Pricing
- Quick Turnaround Time
- Superior Customer Service
- Customized Creations Covering all your branded, promotional merchandise and apparel needs

For more information please contact Ho-Chunk tribal member, Sharyn Steele:

[www.thebluewingcompany.com](http://www.thebluewingcompany.com)  
Email: [sharynsteele@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sharynsteele@sbcglobal.net)  
Phone: 310-773-8780

## The 2015 Ho-Chunk Nation Census Rate Hits 50 Percent

The 2015 Ho-Chunk Nation Census is in full swing, and we are approaching our final stages by going door-to-door starting in July. As of Monday, June 27, 2016, 50 percent of the nation’s households have completed their 2015 Census online, paper version, or through the most recent method, telephone calls.

The Ho-Chunk Nation Census Workers will be going door-to-door to get the Census questionnaire completed in the 14-county service area in Wisconsin. We are encouraging the members who have not yet completed their Census, to do so and be counted.

Also as of today, the following progress by District and method of completion is below:

### Census Progress by District and Method of Completion

The percentages shown below each bar are the percent of cases within that district:

District 1	579	48%	online	1,891	33%
District 2	666	50%	paper	640	11%
District 3	410	45%	phone	197	3%
District 4	215	50%	field	0	0%
District 5	951	53%	other completed	93	2%
			pending	2,864	50%

Completed	2,821	50%
Pending	2,864	50%

The information and address information that is collected by the Ho-Chunk Nation census worker is kept strictly confidential, and the Census workers have signed a confidentiality agreement with the Nation. The 2015 Census Project will continue to post updates to the participation rate throughout the final process.





**Abel & Susie Hopinkah Family Reunion**  
When: Sunday, August 28, 2016, Noon until Evening  
Place: Fort McCoy Campgrounds – Pineview Campgrounds  
Address: 8053 W J Street, Sparta, WI 54656  
Phone: (800) 531-4703

We're planning a potluck, so please bring your favorite main dish, dessert or beverage.  
It's been a long time since we all gathered together. Hope to see you there so we can renew, reminisce and share family stories.  
Pearl Mrotek will be the local contact in Tomah. Please share this posting with family members.

August 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday & Sunday

**BROWN FAMILY**  
17th Annual Reunion

Family – Food – Fun  
Swimming – Cards – Horseshoes – Auction  
Bring a dish to pass – meat provided

Blackhawk Park, DeSoto, WI.

Questions call – Fran Littlewolf 715-297-4239  
Or Lee Brown – 715-299-4417



**Free Rabies Clinic**

Pet owners: We are having a rabies vaccination clinic for your pet! It is very important that your animal be vaccinated to protect its health and the health of your family. Puppies and kittens need to be at least 3 months old to receive the vaccination.

**Offering Distemper/Parvo Vaccinations Again:**

Distemper/Parvo vaccine available for dog's only \$5.00/dog! Each area will be allotted vaccine on a first come basis. Open to all Tribal Members.



Date	Location	Time
July 20	BRF Sand Pillow Community Bldg BRF	9:00am-12:00pm
July 20	BRF Indian Mission/Pavilion next to IM Head Start	1:30pm-4:30pm

**PLEASE BRING YOUR DOGS ON LEASHES AND CATS IN CRATES!**  
Questions please contact the Ho-Chunk Health Care Center at 1-800-294-9343 ext. 5011 or 5059. Open to all Tribal Members.

**OBITUARY**  
**Amie N. Gensler**

Amie N. Gensler of Jamestown, MO. went to be with the Lord on June 10, 2016

Amie was born July 21, 1979 in Marshall, MO. daughter of Celeste Goff and Monte Shikles.

Amie loved was a free spirit who loved her friends and family.

She is survived by her mother Celeste Goff of Black River Falls, WI., her daughter Cienna Wickers of Jefferson, MO., three brothers David Gensler of Moberly, MO., John Shikles of California, MO., Derek Shikles of Kansas. One sister Sarah Shikles and stepmother Janette Shikles of California, MO. Amie also survived by her aunts, uncles and several cousins.

She was proceeded in death by her father, grandparents William E. Goff and Darleen Lewis Goff and one cousin Billy Joe Gensler.

She was cremated and asked for no services, there was a celebration of her life.



*Thank You*

I want to thank everyone who took part in the celebration of my son Brien's life.

A special thank you to: Greg Blackcoon for guiding us through and helping us; Charles Hindsley, the Roadman, and all your helpers for doing everything you did.



Thank you to Christopher Rivera for all you did; thank you Dante Cleveland and Jerrod Hilling, thank you to all the cooks (Chiara Blackcoon, Tara Blackcoon, and Leanna Hilling), and the rest of my grandchildren for serving and waiting on us.

Thank you to the Native American Church for the donations, the pallbearers, Lance Long, and anyone I may have missed.

Thank you to everyone who sent flowers and cards. Thank you everyone for all the prayers on behalf of our family. God bless each and every one of you.

*Jerri Deere, Wisconsin Dells*





**Financial Literacy**

Beginning with the **graduating class of 2017**, you are required to pass a Financial Literacy course in order to access your trust fund due to the revision of the Ho-Chunk Nation Per Capita Distribution Ordinance.


Those who have not yet reached the age of 25 and have not graduated from high school are also required to pass this Financial Literacy course in order to access your trust fund.

The courses are online which will allow you to go at your own pace.

In order to access the program, you must know your Tribal Identification Number.

Your physical and mailing address should be current with the Nation's Enrollment Office. If you need to update your address, please contact the Enrollment Office at 1-800-331-7824.


If you have a documented Individualized Education Plan (IEP), please email:  
[HonorYourFuture@ho-chunk.com](mailto:HonorYourFuture@ho-chunk.com)



Some of the topics include:

Budgeting   Credit   Taxes   Housing   Retirement   Investments  
Consumer Protection Against Fraud   Vehicle Acquisition  
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REZBOY PROMOTIONS  
PRESENTS AN EVENING OF  
LIVE BOXING ACTION!

FRIDAY  
AUGUST  
19



friday Night  
**SHOWDOWN**



GUEST APPERANCE BY

**4X**

WORLD  
CHAMPION

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QUICKSILVER  
HILL**

IBF, WBA & lineal light heavyweight titles,  
WBA cruiserweight title, silver medalist of the 1984 Olympics

FEATURING MATCHES BETWEEN:  
**JUSTIN GAUTHIER**  
**IRA FRANK**  
**JOSEPH PECORE**  
**JEROME LABARGE**  
**DANIEL DENNY**  
**LIONEL JIMENEZ**  
**JOHN METOXEN**  
**NIGEL DAWSON**  
**VAN GOODMAN**  
**JASON NICHOLSON**  
**ROB FRANKEL**

Purchase advance ticket sales at the Rewards Club booth (Cash Only) | 18 years and older eligible

**Ringside seating \$40 | General Admission \$25**

Day of event: Ringside \$50 | General Admission \$30

Ringside seating includes \$20 Rewards Play and General Admission include \$15 Rewards Play.  
Those 21 and older who place their ticket stub in the barrel after fhe fights could be one  
of three winners walking away with \$1,000 Cash!

For more information visit [ho-chunggaming.com/wittenberg](http://ho-chunggaming.com/wittenberg) or check us out on 

**HO-CHUNK GAMING**  
WITTENBERG

BLACK RIVER FALLS | MADISON | NEKOOSA | TOMAH | WISCONSIN DELLS | WITTENBERG



## Elderly Advisory Board Elections

Wittenberg and WI Dells TAU will be having elections on July 18, 2016 for the Elderly Advisory board.  
For more information contact the TAU sites.

## ATTENTION TRIBAL MEMBERS

The Committee on Tribal Enrollment has the following vacancy:

**District 3 & District 5**  
**Length of Term:**  
**4 years from date of Legislative Appointment**

Candidate must reside in the District at the time of selection until the term limit ends, unless a redistricting change supersedes a member from the redistricted district.

To qualify you must meet the following:

- Enrolled Tribal Ho-Chunk Member
- Be at least twenty-five (25 years of age)
- Never been convicted of a felony in any tribal, state or federal court and;
- Cannot be determined to be incompetent by a court of law.

All interested Tribal Members should attend the District Area Meeting. Members are selected by eligible voters of each District.

**ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY CONTACT THE OFFICE OF TRIBAL ENROLLMENT @ 800-331-7824 OR 715-284-7824.**

## HO-CHUNK NATION LEGISLATURE SPECIAL MEETING EXECUTIVE OFFICES BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI MAY 25, 2016 12:30 p.m.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Wilfrid Cleveland at 12: 45 p.m.

### Roll Call:

President Wilfrid –P

Vice President Darren Brinegar-P

Rep. Greg Blackdeer-EX  
Rep. Douglas Greengrass-P

Rep. Lori Pettibone-P  
Rep. Andrea Estebo-P

Rep. David Greendeer-  
(12:49 p.m.)

Rep. Henning Garvin-EX

Rep. Kathy DeCamp-P  
Rep. Shelby Visintin-CC

Rep. Forrest Whiterabbit-P

Rep. Matt Mullen-  
(1:05 p.m.)

Rep. Kathyleen Lone Tree-Whiterabbit-P

Rep. Robert TwoBears-P

\*Via Conference call

**Determination of Quorum:**  
Quorum is established.

**Opening Prayer:** President Wilfrid Cleveland offered a word of prayer.

### Approval of Agenda:

**MOTION** by Rep. Kathyleen LoneTree-Whiterabbit to approve the agenda with striking D. Twin Cities Branch Office Language Teacher from the agenda, as it was addressed in the Budget Bill. Second by Rep. Andrea Estebo. 10-0-0. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

**MOTION** by Rep. Kathyleen Lone Tree-Whiterabbit to approve the May 18, 2016 Legislative Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Robert TwoBears 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

### ORDER OF THE DAY:

*Resolution-Authorization for the Department of Housing to Withdraw Funds from the Veterans Home Ownership Restricted Account for Fiscal Year 2016-17*

**MOTION** by Rep. Andrea Estebo to adopt *Resolution 05-25-16 A*, Authorization for the Department of Housing to Withdraw Funds from the Veterans Home Ownership Restricted Account for Fiscal Year 2016-17. Second by Vice President Darren Brinegar.10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

*Resolution-Authorization for the Department of Housing to Withdraw Fund from the Elder Home Ownership Restricted Account for Fiscal Year 2016-17*

**MOTION** by Rep. Kathyleen Lone Tree-Whiterabbit to adopt *Resolution 05-25-16 B*, Authorization for the Department of Housing to Withdraw Funds from the Elder Home Ownership Restricted Account for Fiscal Year 2016-17. Second by Rep. Andrea Estebo 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

*Resolution-Adoption of Executive Branch Budget Bill for Fiscal Year 2016-17.*

**MOTION** by Rep. Kathyleen Lone Tree-Whiterabbit to adopt *Resolution 05-25-16 C*, Adoption of Executive Branch Budget Bill for Fiscal Year 2016-17, with the stipulation of Language Program adding \$100,000.00 to contract services and under Chapter 11 Department of Housing 0500 Account adding \$62,166.00, and additional corrections. Second by Rep. David Greendeer 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

*Rep. Matt Mullen arrives.*

*Resolution-Adoption of General Council Branch Budget Bill for Fiscal Year 2016-17.*

**MOTION** by Rep. Forrest Whiterabbit to adopt *Resolution 05-25-16 D*, Adoption of General Council Branch Budget Bill for Fiscal Year 2016-17 with corrections. Second by Rep. David Greendeer 7-3(Vice President Darren Brinegar, Rep. Lori Pettibone, Rep. Shelby Visintin)-1 (Rep. Matt Mullen) **MOTION CARRIED.**

*Resolution-Adoption of Legislative Branch, General Fund, Health Insurance, and Internal Audit and Tribal Health Insurance Budget Bill for Fiscal Year 2016-17.*

**MOTION** by Rep. Kathyleen Lone Tree-Whiterabbit to adopt *Resolution 05-25-16 E*, Adoption of Legislative Branch, General Fund, Health Insurance, and Internal Audit Budget Bill for Fiscal Year 2016-17, with corrections. Second by Rep. Lori Pettibone. 9-1(Rep. Robert TwoBears)-1(Vice President Darren Brinegar) **MOTION CARRIED**

*Resolution-Adoption of Judicial Branch Budget Bill for Fiscal Year 2016-17.*

**MOTION** by Rep. Andrea Estebo to adopt *Resolution 05-25-16 F*, Adoption of Judicial Branch Budget Bill for Fiscal Year 2016-17, with corrections. Second by Rep. Forrest Whiterabbit. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**

*Resolution-Adoption of Enterprises (Gaming & Non-Gaming) Budget Bill for Fiscal Year 2016-17.*

**MOTION** by Rep. Robert Two Bears to adopt *Resolution 05-25-16 G*, Adoption of Enterprises (Gaming & Non-Gaming) Budget Bill for Fiscal Year 2016-17, with corrections. Second by Rep. Kathyleen Lone Tree-Whiterabbit. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**

*Resolution-Adoption of Gaming Commission, Ethics Review Board, and Election Board Budget Bill for Fiscal Year 2016-17.*

**MOTION** by Rep. Kathyleen Lone Tree-Whiterabbit to adopt *Resolution 05-25-16 H*, Adoption of Gaming Commission, Ethics Review Board, and Election Board Budget Bill for Fiscal Year 2016-17 with corrections. Second by Rep. Lori Pettibone. 9-0-2 (Vice President Darren Brinegar, Rep. Andrea Estebo) **MOTION CARRIED.**

*Conference Approval-23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Stabilizing Indigenous Languages Symposium-Billings, MT.*

**MOTION** by Vice President Darren Brinegar to approve any legislators to attend the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Stabilizing Indigenous Languages Symposium in Billings, Montana on June 6-7, 2016 on an expedited basis. Second by Rep. Andrea Estebo. 10-0-1(Rep. Robert TwoBears) **MOTION CARRIED. HAND VOTE IS REQUIRED.**

### Executive Session:

**MOTION** by Rep. Kathyleen Lone Tree-Whiterabbit to move into Executive Session. Second by Rep. Lori Pettibone. 9-0-2 (Rep. David Greendeer, Rep. Shelby Visintin) **MOTION CARRIED.**

2:11 p.m.

**MOTION** by Rep. Forrest Whiterabbit to move into Open Session. Second by Rep. Andrea Estebo **MOTION CARRIED.**

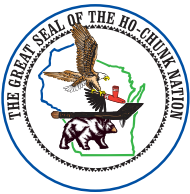
**MOTION** by Rep. Kathyleen Lone Tree-Whiterabbit to ratify all action taken in Executive Session. Second by Rep. Matt Mullen. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

### Adjournment:

**MOTION** by Rep. Kathyleen Lone Tree-Whiterabbit to adjourn the meeting. Second by Rep. Lori Pettibone. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Legislative Meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by, Kathyleen Lone Tree-Whiterabbit, Tribal Secretary



Ho-CHUNK NATION  
OFFICE OF THE  
GENERAL COUNCIL

## GCA REGULAR MEETING NOTICE

**WHO:** GENERAL COUNCIL AGENCY

**WHEN:** SATURDAY JULY 16TH, 2016 @ 10 AM.

**WHERE:** OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL  
27374 STATE HIGHWAY 21 SUITE #2  
TOMAH, WI 54660

### AGENDA:

- 2016 GENERAL COUNCIL EVENT PLANNING
- GCA MONTHLY REPORTS
- COMMUNITY CONCERNS
- GCA AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

**NOTE: GENERAL COUNCIL AGENCY MEETINGS ARE SUBJECT TO THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT.**

**THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME.**

OOGC- STAFF

POSTED 06.20.2016

Office of the General Council  
27374 Highway 21, Tomah, WI 54661  
Phone: (715) 284-7891  
Fax: (608)372-6092



# Feature on Aging and Disability Resource Specialist Roberta M. Decorah

Submitted by Desiree Gearing-Lancaster

A power point created by ADRS staff, Roberta Decorah, encapsulates the essence of Roberta in her role as Child and Family Services Aging and Disability Resource Specialist and the character behind the role.

In providing a brief overview of the Ho-Chunk Nation and the Hocak people, the power point notes “The Ho-Chunk people are ‘The People of the Big Voice’ and this represents their innate ability to be strong and voice their opinion resulting in a positive impact for the Ho-Chunk People.” This statement, in my opinion, reflects Roberta Decorah’s passion, commitment, brand and approach to her position with CFS ADRS.

And speaking of power points, Roberta and her power point are available for the asking as an educational and outreach presentation. The presentation provides a brief overview of the Ho-Chunk Nation including information about sectors of the Nation’s government, departments and programs. The presentation also includes a brief description about the Hocak people, kinship and family structure. Roberta shared the fact that she (and her accompanying power point) IS available at a location near you.

The ADRS program as a

critical component of the “Disability & Elder Program” provides short term service coordination, benefit assistance and long term care consultation. The purpose of ADRS is to support and empower tribal elders and/or disabled tribal members by serving as a central source for the following services: advocacy, information and referral, assistance support and access to community resources and/or WI ADRC services. In addition to serving tribal elders, ADRS also serves adults and youth with disabilities age 17 ½ years and older. In addition to tribal members with physical disabilities, ADRS serves the tribal population dealing with challenges related to developmental disabilities, functional limitations, language differences, mental illness and/or substance abuse disorders.

Who is the person behind the ADRS desk? Roberta was born in La Crosse, WI and raised primarily in Tomah. Roberta reported her lineage is “Ahuco” which means “Blue Wing” so she noted that residing in Tomah for the past 27 years is “where I need to be.” Roberta and her husband, Francis Decorah, have been married for 41 years. They have three daughters; one daughter resides in Baraboo and two daughters live in Tomah. Roberta loves

to spend time with her four grandsons. Her favorite activities include watching her grandchildren participate in soccer and lacrosse. She also enjoys hiking in the forest and enjoying nature with her grandchildren. They especially enjoy the Kickapoo Reserve area. Roberta also enjoys eating meals together as a family. She reported that her favorite hobby is writing, stating “I love to write.”

Roberta brings a wealth of knowledge and experience based on a variety of professional roles. She reports 11 years of experience with Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency, which includes 4 years in the position of Tenant Services Coordinator and Security Director. Her experience with HHCA also includes positions as Drug Elimination Coordinator, Youth Sports Coordinator and six months experience in Housing Outreach. Roberta was also employed with the Department of Veteran Affairs, housed at the Tomah V.A. Hospital. Her 11 years of experience at the V.A. included positions as a medical administration and eligibility specialist. Roberta’s experience as an Ambulatory Care Coordinator included a variety of roles in the outpatient clinic setting involving ambulatory care, travel, and mental health, essentially

working in every aspect of nursing home care. She also served as Equal Employment Opportunity Officer and worked with the Chaplin at the V.A. to facilitate cultural linkages, such as the Sweat Lodge. In addition, Roberta was employed for one year in Human Resources for Ho-Chunk Gaming in Wisconsin Dells (1993-1994). In Roberta’s words, she has “a lot of administrative experience.” Employment strengths includes administrative and coordination abilities and knowledge in navigating systems.

Roberta assumed her position as an Aging and Disability Resource Specialist in May 2012. According to Roberta, “It’s a good job because I am helping my relatives. We are all related in some way; even non-natives as we come from the same creator.” Roberta noted this position gives her a “sense of ownership.” She advised the importance of performing this job “without any kind of judgement.” The “trust factor” and the importance of “quiet listening” and allowing elders and others to develop a comfort level and rapport promotes the sharing of their story. Their story, according to Roberta, leads her to the opportunity to “fix what we can fix.” Roberta also emphasized the importance of building feelings of



**Roberta Decorah**

connectedness with people and “going with the flow.” This could simply mean helping elders and others with navigating the system and explaining and assisting with paperwork, which often seems overwhelming. According to Roberta, it takes consistency, patience and respect. Despite that, the answers Roberta provides are not always the ones people like to hear. Elders are sometimes angry but should have avenues to vent their displeasure. This allows people to have their issues addressed. According to Roberta, “It’s the realities of life.” Through their stories, Roberta stated “I always learn something from what they say.”

The favorite part of her job, Roberta states is her capacity “to get a person to a better place.”

The passion shows.



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Please contact:

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Placement Parent Coordinator,  
Ho-Chunk Nation Child and Family Services  
1-855-659-8820 or  
Email: [PlacementHomes@ho-chunk.com](mailto:PlacementHomes@ho-chunk.com)



Join the Ho-Chunk Nation  
in Celebrating  
National Breastfeeding Month  
August 2016

Organized by:  
Ho-Chunk Nation Breastfeeding Coalition  
Ho-Chunk Nation Maternal Child Health Program  
Ho-Chunk Nation Nutrition Program

Everyone Welcome!  
Thursday, August 23rd  
House of Wellness Food Court  
11:00-1:00  
Lunch ~ Raffles ~ Information



*\*The logo was designed by Ammar Khalifa and commissioned by WABA which owns the copyright.*